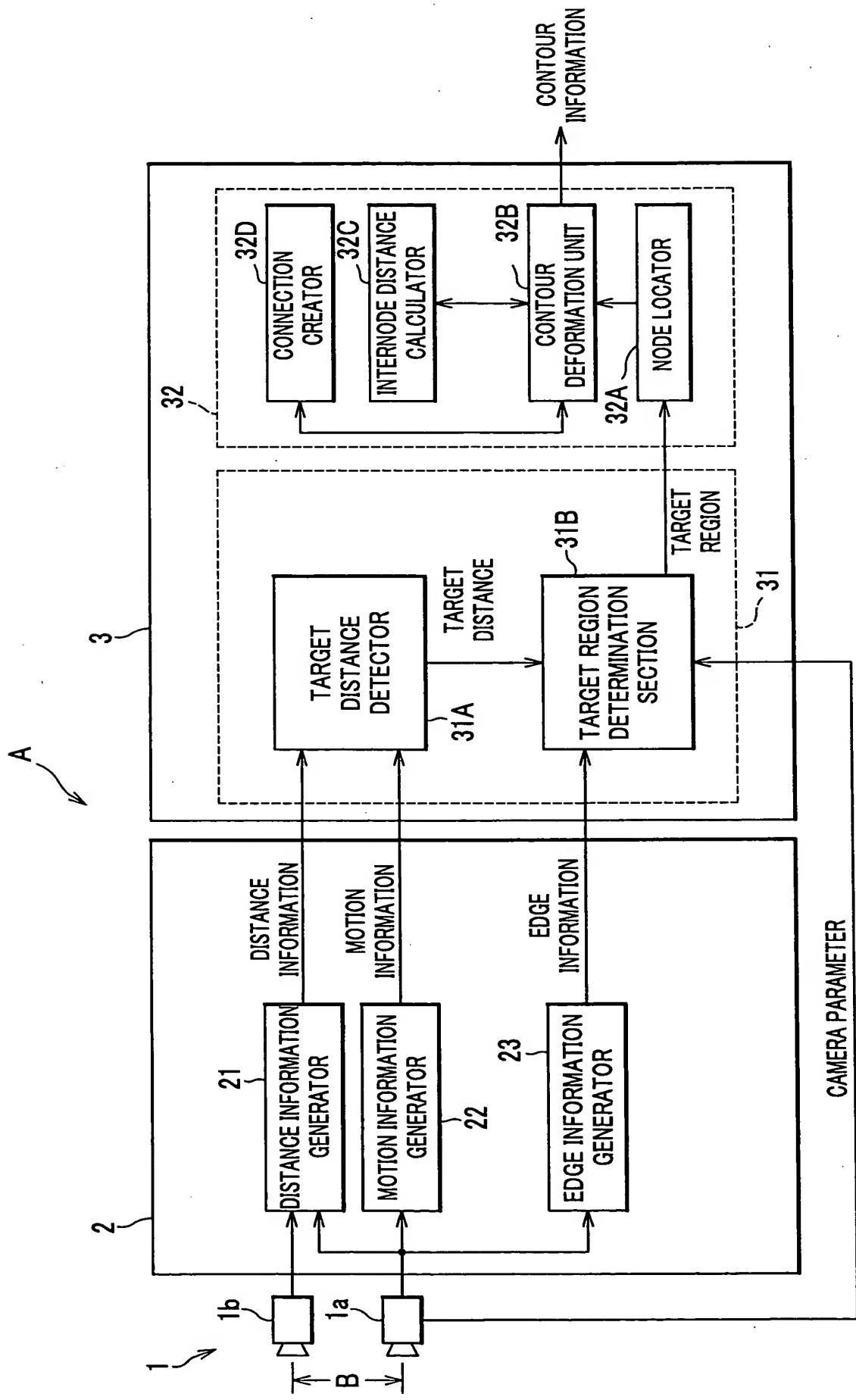
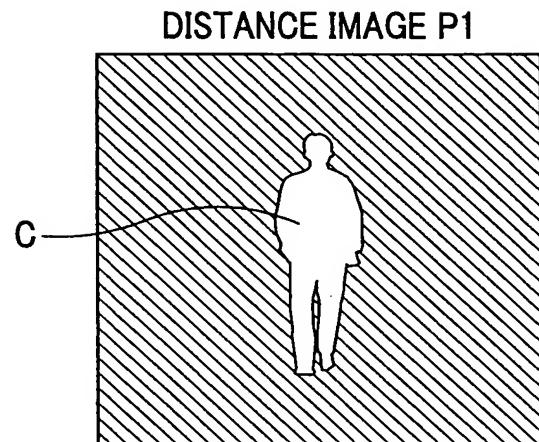


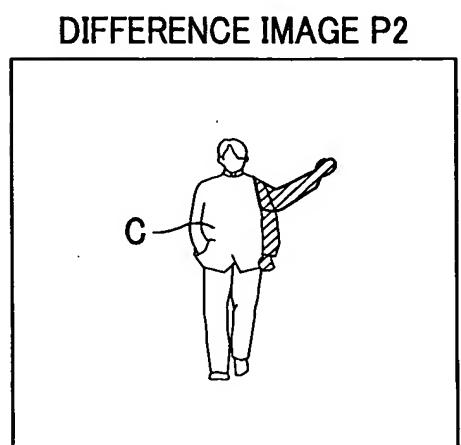
FIG.1



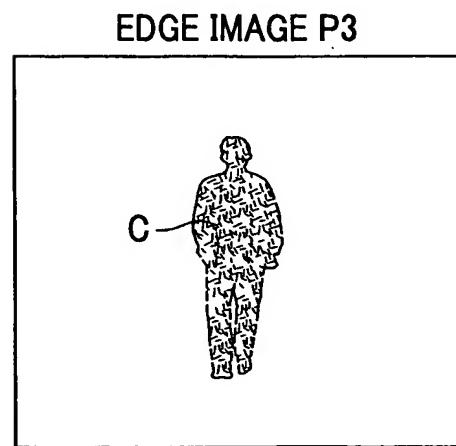
**FIG.2A**



**FIG.2B**

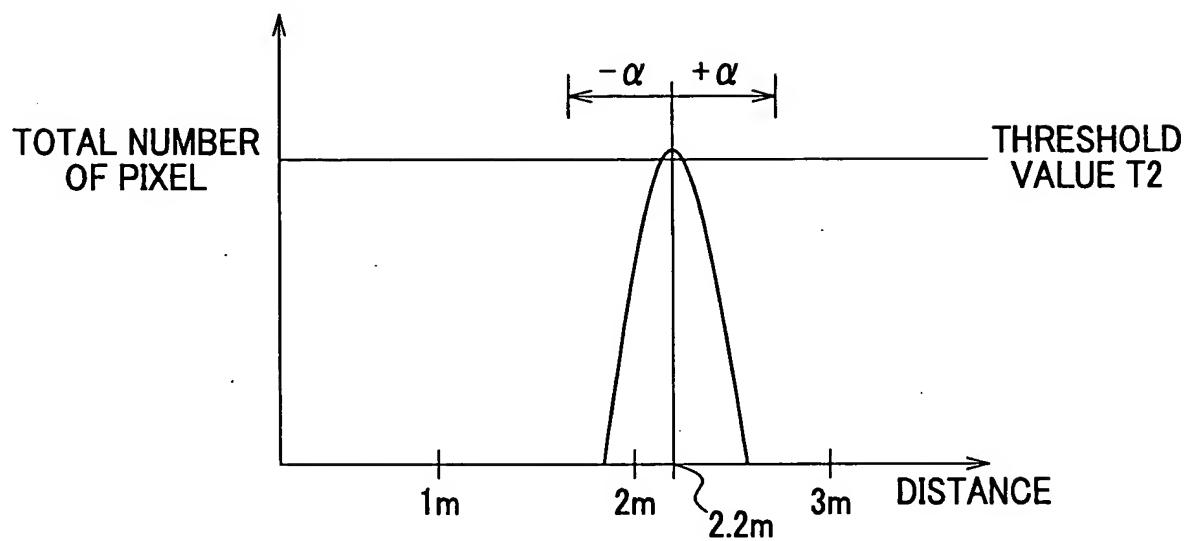


**FIG.2C**



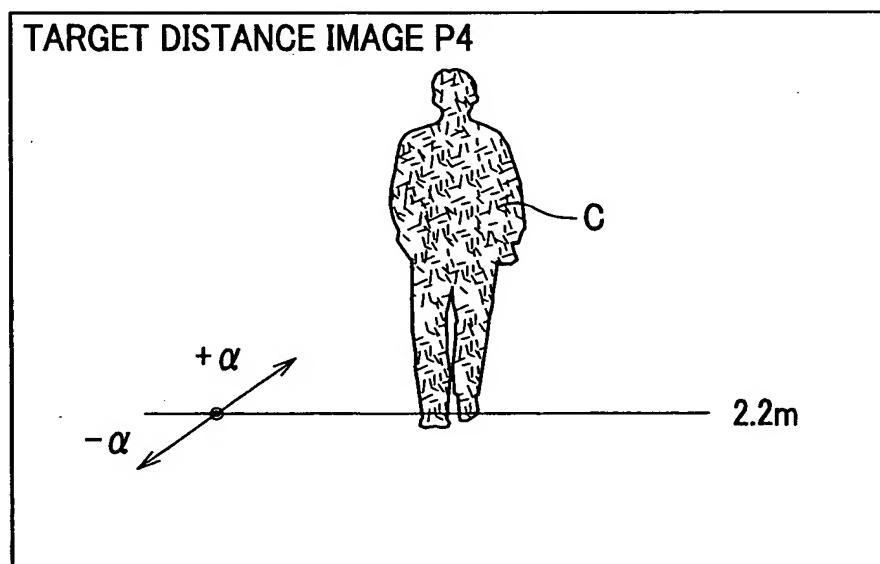
**FIG.3A**

DETERMINATION OF TARGET DISTANCE D1



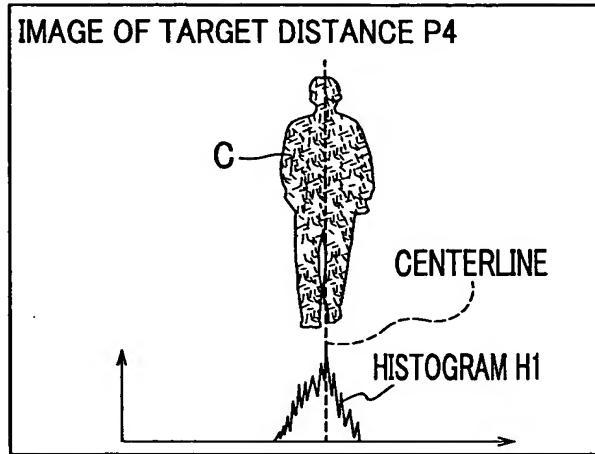
**FIG.3B**

GENERATION OF TARGET DISTANCE IMAGE P4



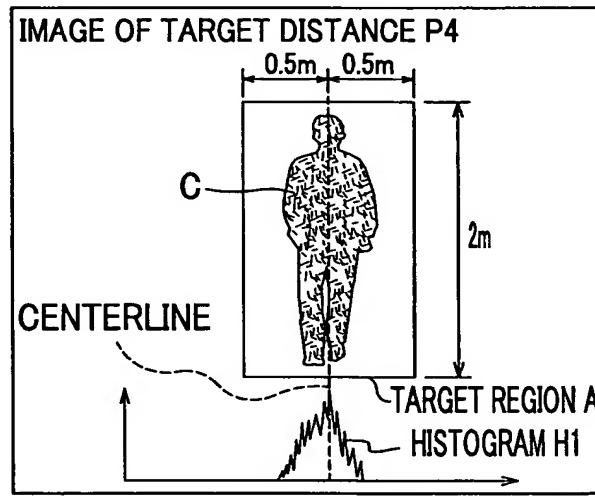
**FIG.4A**

DETERMINATION OF TARGET REGION A(1)



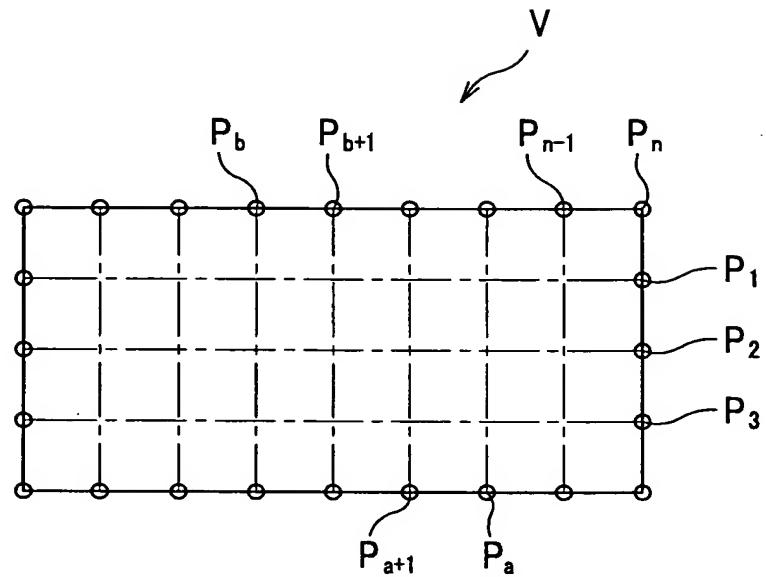
**FIG.4B**

DETERMINATION OF TARGET REGION A(2)



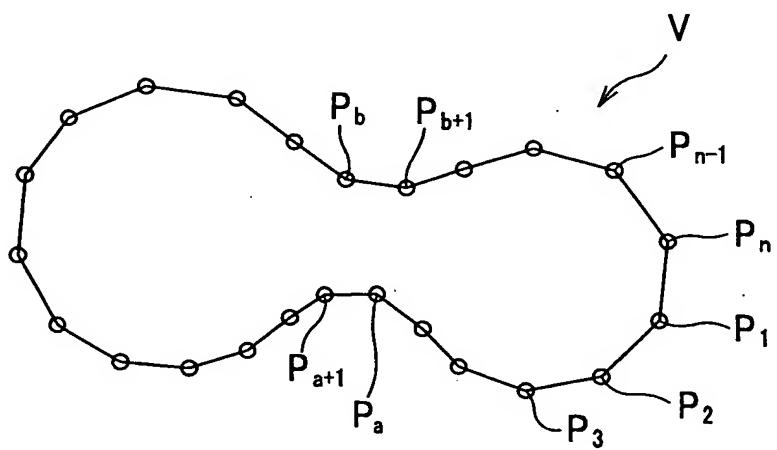
**FIG.5A**

ARRANGING NODES  $P_i$  ( $i=1,2,\dots,n$ )



**FIG.5B**

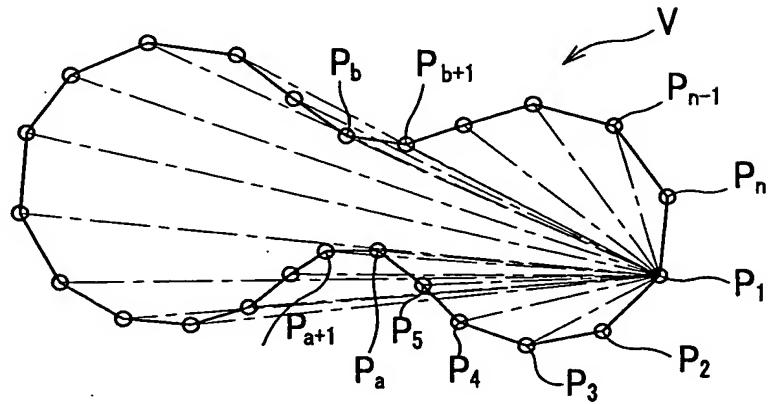
DEFORMING CONTOUR  $V$



**FIG.6A**

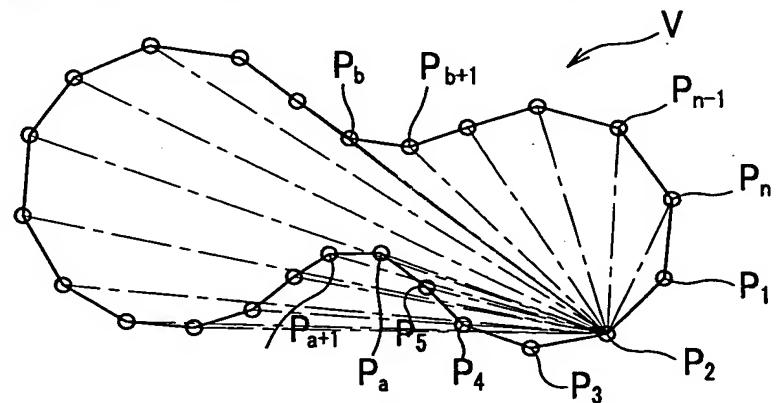
MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2  
FROM NODE  $P_1$  TO  $P_3, P_4, \dots, P_{n-1}$ , RESPECTIVELY.



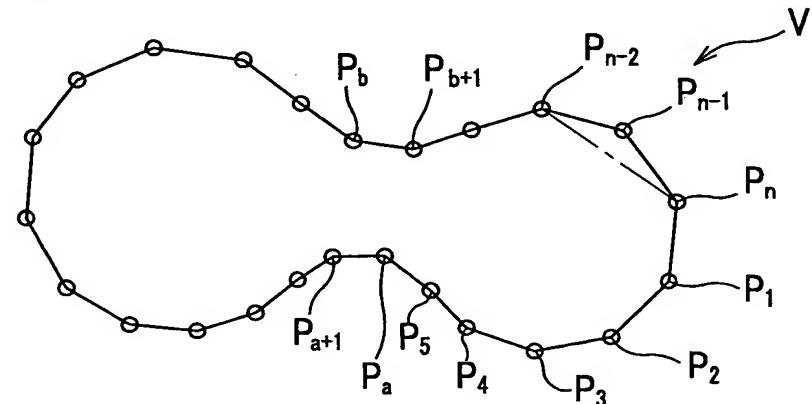
**FIG.6B**

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2  
FROM NODE  $P_2$  TO  $P_4, P_5, \dots, P_n$ , RESPECTIVELY.



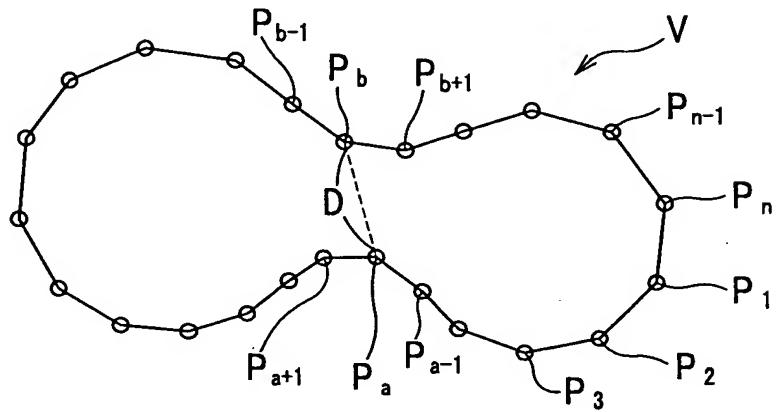
**FIG.6C**

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2  
FROM NODE  $P_{n-2}$  TO  $P_n$



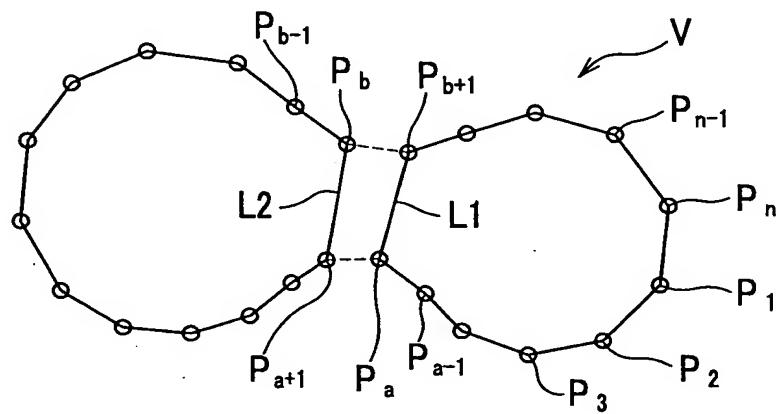
**FIG.7A**

SEARCHING COMBINATION ( $P_a, P_b$ ) OF NODES  $P_i$  THAT SATISFIES  $D_2 \leq D_3$ .



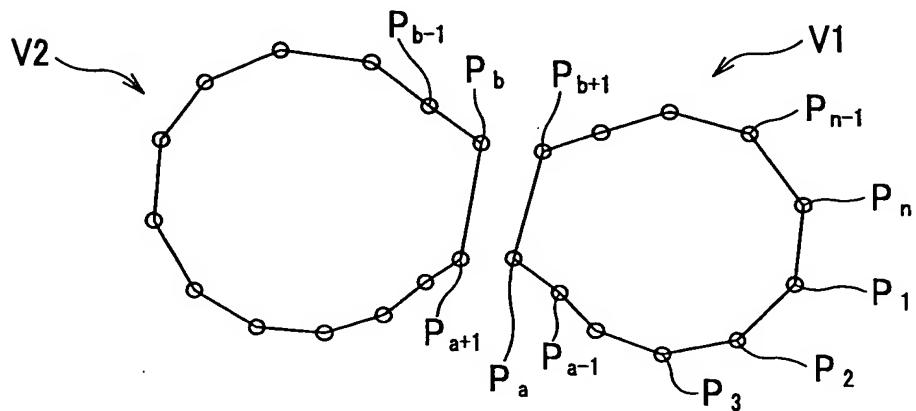
**FIG.7B**

CREATING CONNECTION LINES L1 AND L2.



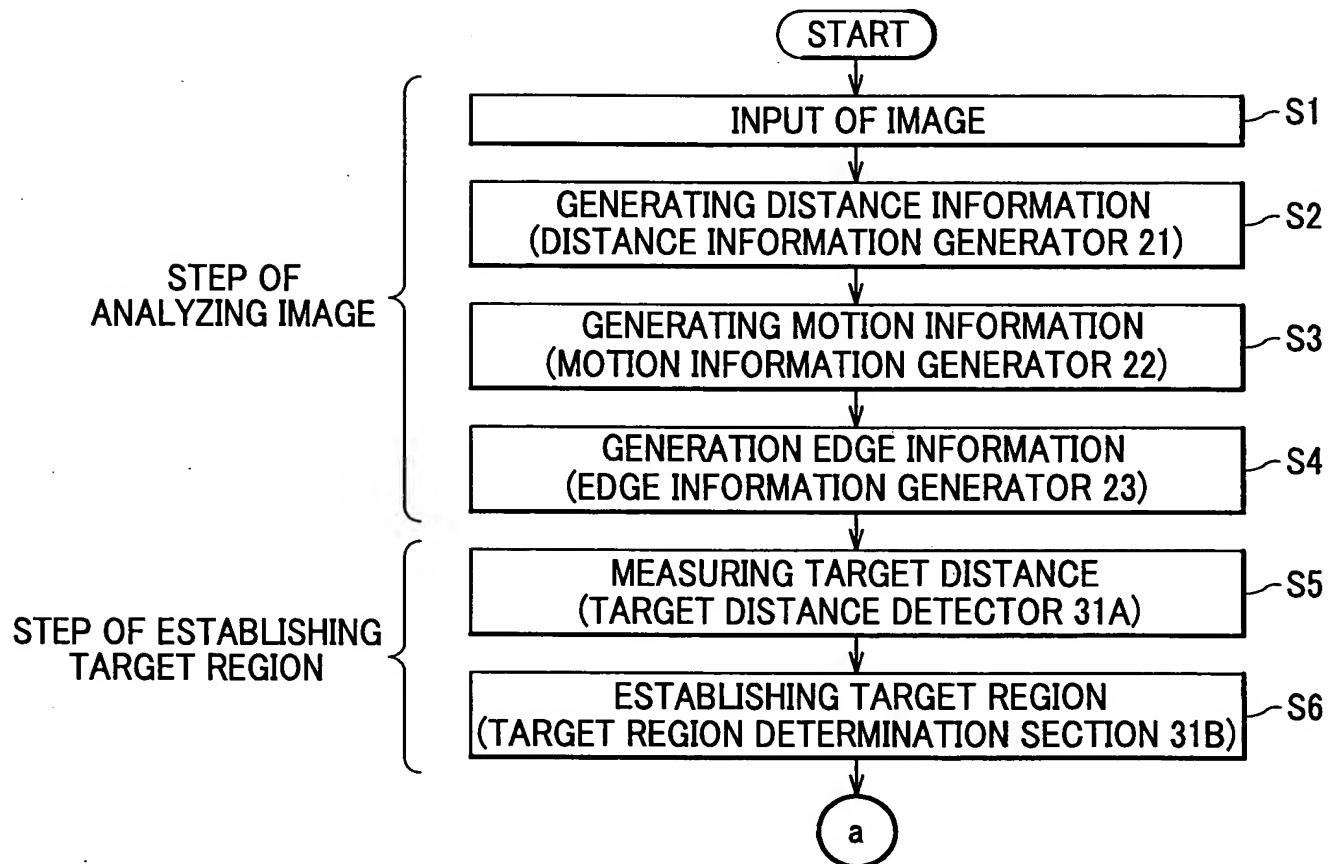
**FIG.7C**

DIVIDING CONTOUR V INTO CONTOURS V1 AND V2.



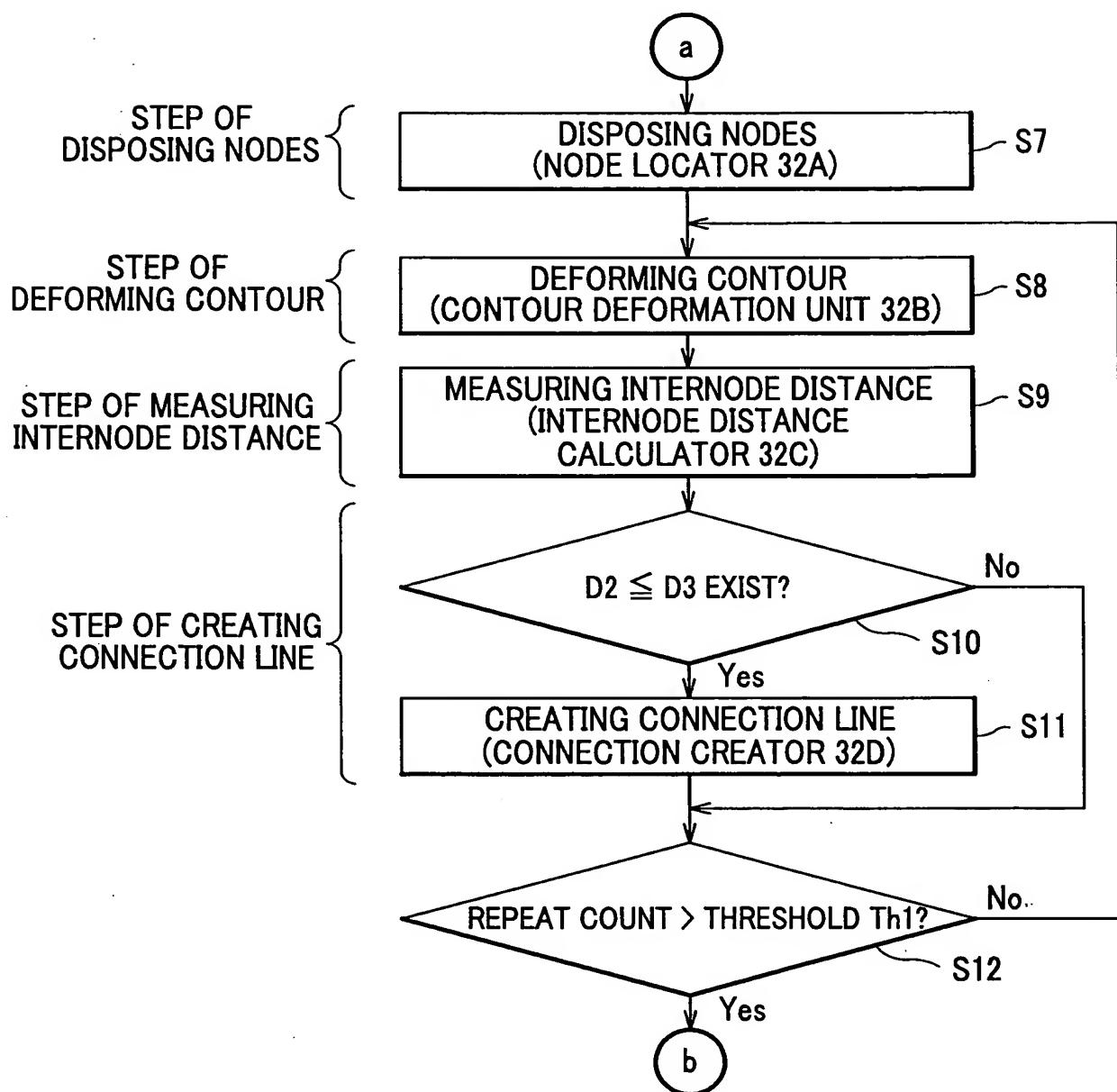
**FIG.8**

PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A



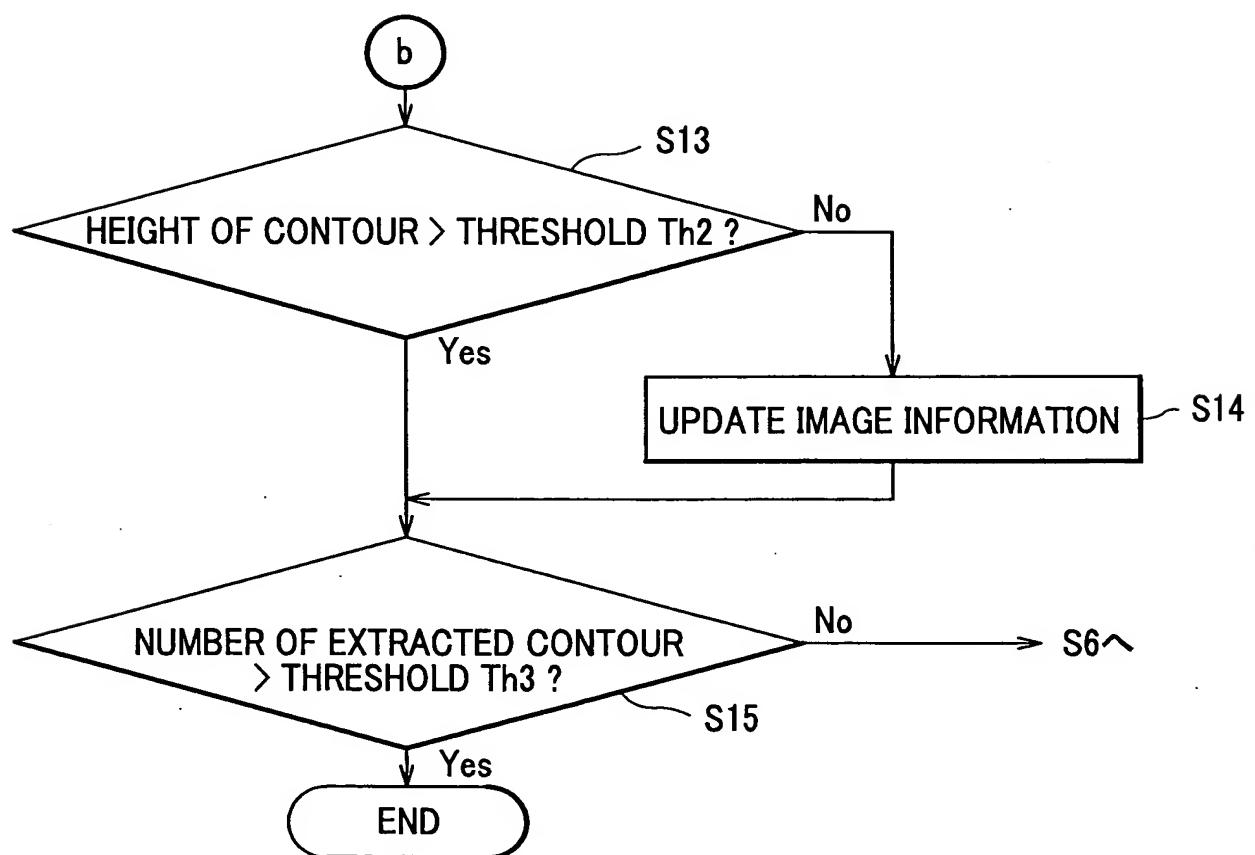
**FIG.9**

PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A

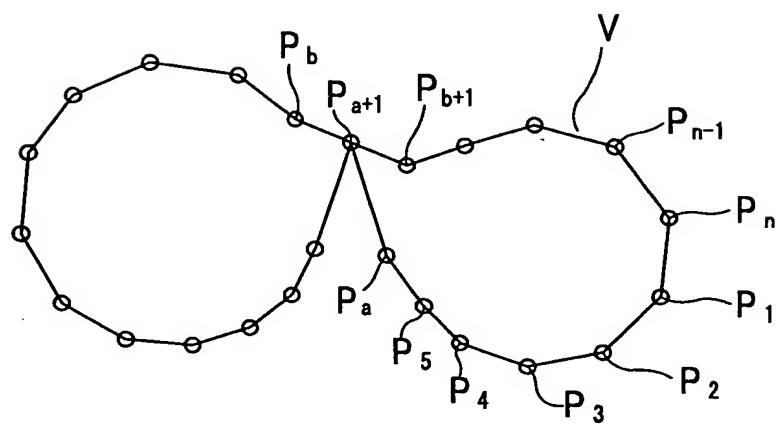


**FIG.10**

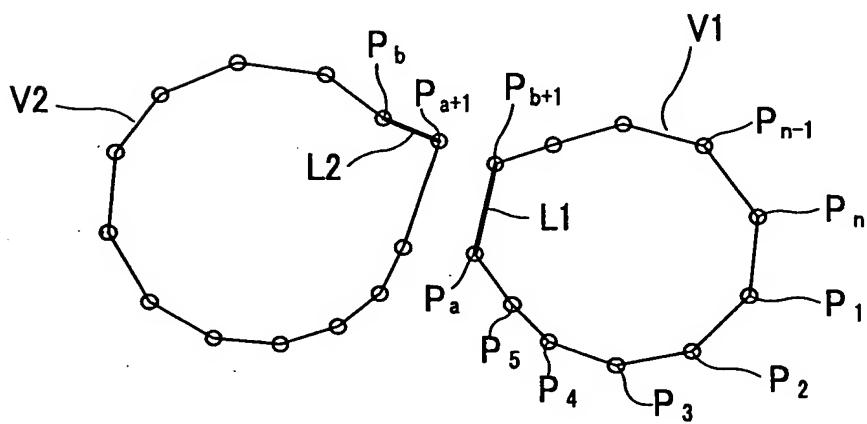
PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A



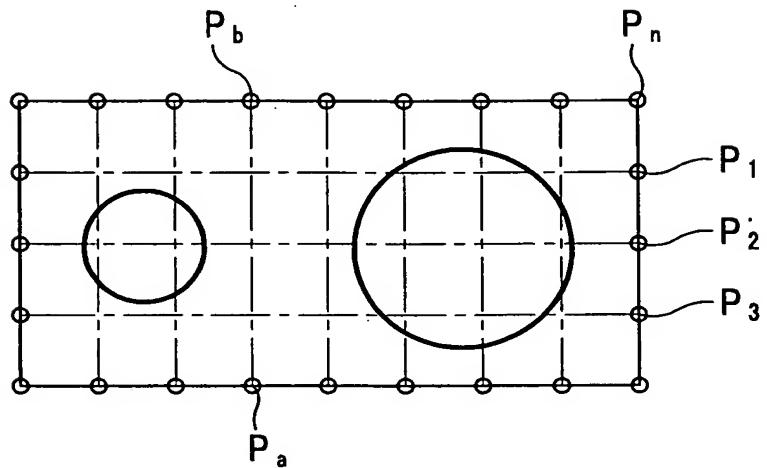
**FIG.11A**  
RELEVANT ART



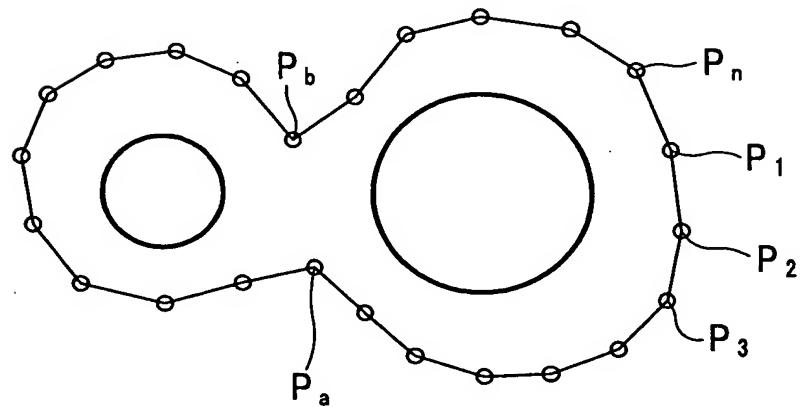
**FIG.11B**  
RELEVANT ART



**FIG.12A**  
RELEVANT ART



**FIG.12B**  
RELEVANT ART



**FIG.12C**  
RELEVANT ART

